

REMARKS

Claims 34, 39-42, 47-49, 51, 52, and 55-64 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 34 and 47-49 are amended. Claim 34 incorporates the features of now-canceled claims 70-72. Claims 36-38, 44, 45 and 70-72 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claims 34, 36-42, 44, 45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54-57, 61, 62 and 67-72 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,949,352 to Ferrari in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071478 to Cornwall in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,657,552 to Belski. The Office Action, on pages 12 and 13, rejects claims 58-60, 63 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ferrari in view of Cornwall and further in view of one of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,136 to Li and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0175805 to Armstrong. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 34 is amended based on claims 70-72 to recite, among other features, a touch trigger probe, and in the event of a measurement event, the first station transmits information relating to the measurement event, including data relating to a time of the measurement event and a trigger event, when a signal transmitted by the first station containing information relating to the measurement event is received by the second station, the second station produces a measurement device output signal, with a time delay between the measurement event and the production of the measurement device output signal, the measurement device output signal including a machine station probe output, when the signal transmitted by the first station is not adequately received by the second station, the signal is retransmitted by the first station, the time delay being sufficiently long to allow the first station to retransmit the signal within the time delay, the first station comprises a timer for measuring a time between the measurement event and the transmission of the signal

comprising information relating to the measurement event, the information relating to the measurement event including the time measured by the timer, the retransmitted signal comprises updated data relating to the time of the measurement event, and the delay between each trigger event and the resulting machine station probe output is substantially constant.

In multiple discussions with Examiner Khan, including during a December 28, 2009 personal interview, the Examiner indicated that amending claim 34 to include the features of all of claims 70-72 would place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner indicated that he would enter such an amendment by Examiner's Amendment. Applicants approved these amendments in a February 2, 2010 facsimile to Examiner Khan. Instead of acting on Applicants' agreement, Examiner Khan mailed this Office Action. In a series of telephone messages following receipt of the Office Action, Applicants' representative confirmed with the Examiner that these amendments would place claim 34, and the claims depending therefrom, in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, the pending combinations of applied references would not have rendered obvious the combination of features recited in independent claim 34. Thus, the combinations of applied references would not have suggested the combinations of features recited in dependent claims 39-42, 47-49, 51, 52 and 55-64 for at least the respective dependence of these claims on claim 34 as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections of claims 34, 39-42, 47-49, 51, 52 and 55-64 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 34, 39-42, 47-49, 51, 52 and 55-64 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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